

NRA CORPORATE PLAN 94-95

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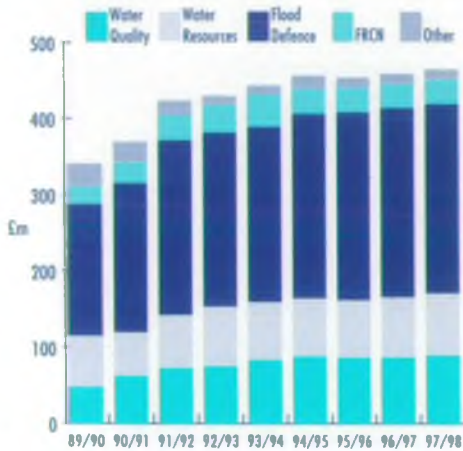
NRA

National Rivers Authority

Guardians of
the Water Environment

Efficient Spending Plans.

After rising rapidly in our early years, our annual expenditure will increase only slightly over this plan period, due to our efficiency programme. Our main priority remains the improvement of water quality.



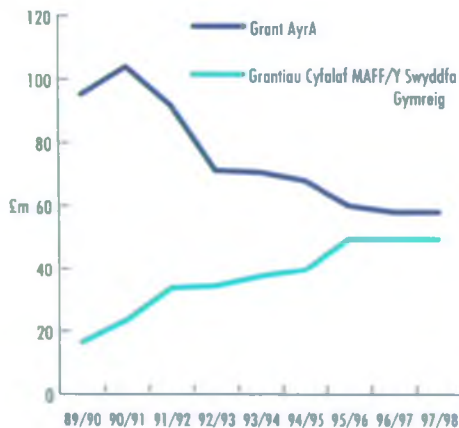
Over the next four years we will spend around £2,000m on protecting and improving the water environment. This can only be justified in the current economic climate if real benefits result and we are cost effective.

We are taking forward the four year savings package incorporated in our last

plan. We have already begun to benefit, and some examples of savings made from budgets are:

- £3.8m from the mergers of Northumbria and Yorkshire, and of Wessex and South West regions;
- £3m pa from the creation of a National Laboratory Service;
- £2.7m from national procurement initiatives.

Our market testing programme, which saved £2m in 1993/94, will continue to find the most cost effective way of providing each of our services. These and other savings will allow us to devote more of our



resources to front line activities.

By being more efficient, we plan to control our costs and keep increases in our principal charges below the going rate of inflation. We will also accommodate the reductions in Grant in Aid in the 1993 Public Expenditure Statement. Grant in Aid will make up 17% of our income in 1994/95.

Staffing.

To remain efficient we will employ fewer people in the future than we had originally planned. During 1993/94 we reduced the number of posts in the NRA by 736, without the need for any compulsory redundancies.

This has been made possible through a variety of means, including:

- shedding unfilled posts;
- regional mergers and area restructuring;

- the results of market testing laboratory services, project engineering services and transport and plant maintenance;
- rationalisation of the in house work force for flood defence;
- effective application of our voluntary severance scheme.

Over the next few years, further staffing efficiencies are planned, but at this stage we cannot prejudge the results of future market testing initiatives.

Delivery of Services.

By providing integrated solutions to environmental problems, we can be sure that the interests of all parties are considered and that we use resources in the most efficient manner. To this end we have created 26 multifunctional areas to meet all local needs.

The areas produce, after consultation with all interested parties, a plan for each river catchment, so that we can address all local issues effectively and in a balanced way. By 1999, we will have published 163 Catchment Management Plans.

By organising some of our work on a national basis, we will improve both efficiency and quality of service. We will only do this where there are real benefits, for example, laboratories and information systems.

The focus of our Research and Development programme and Information Systems strategy is on the business needs of our core functions; this enables us to make the best use of resources for improving the environment.

We have an internal environmental policy, through which we will:

- minimise waste, and
- eliminate harmful practices.

We are also committed to the principles of the Citizen's Charter, through which we will continue to improve the quality of our services.

For further information or copies of this leaflet, or for copies of the full Corporate Plan, please contact:
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To report any environmental incident (eg flooding or pollution) please contact us free on 0800 80 70 60

The National Rivers Authority

The Water Act 1989 established the NRA as 'Guardian of the Water Environment'. We have a wide range of statutory duties and powers, which we use to make the real improvements to the water environment for which we are answerable to Parliament and to all our customers. Our fifth corporate plan sets out our future priorities up to the creation of the proposed Environment Agency.

Our Mission.

"We will protect and improve the water environment by the effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. We will aim to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging our duties we will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. We will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards our employees."

Key Themes and Values.

To achieve our mission, we have adopted three key themes, and we will:

- *protect and improve the water environment,*
- *provide integrated solutions, and*
- *deliver value for money.*

We believe that we are best able to accomplish these themes by encouraging:

- *focus on results, and*
- *teamwork and trust.*

In delivering this plan, we will live these themes and values, commit to them and use them to judge our actions.

Our Key Targets.

For each of our core functions we have overall aims in support of which we set specific targets. The following are some examples of these targets.

Our aims for Water Quality are to:

- *achieve a continuing overall improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters through the control of pollution, and*
- *ensure that dischargers pay the costs of the consequences of their discharges, and where possible, to recover the costs of water environment improvements from those who benefit as well as those who pollute.*

We will achieve these by:

- *increasing the length of river in good quality classes and reducing the length of river in poor quality classes;*
- *reporting an improvement in bathing water quality, so that 95% will comply with the EC directive by 1996;*
- *developing water quality objectives for selected river catchments.*

Our aim for Water Resources is to:

- *manage water resources to achieve the right balance between the needs of the environment and those of abstractors.*

We will achieve this by:

- *alleviating low flows in eight rivers by 1997/98;*
- *implementing our Water Resources Development Strategy.*

Our aims for Flood Defence are to:

- *provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and from the sea, and*
- *provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.*

We will achieve these by:

- *maintaining flood defences protecting 2.3 million house equivalents;*
- *completing a capital programme worth over £120m each year, to protect people and property from risk of flooding;*
- *warning police of 90% of flooding incidents where flood warning schemes exist. Where possible, this will be at least three hours before flooding occurs.*

Our aim for Fisheries is to:

- *maintain, improve and develop fisheries.*

We will achieve this by:

- *implementing the conclusions of our fisheries activity review, so that best use is made of resources;*
- *improving habitats and stocking fish.*

Our aim for Conservation is to:

- *conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with inland and coastal waters of England and Wales.*

We will achieve this by:

- *making sure that conservation is fully considered when we receive applications for abstraction, discharge, land drainage or fisheries consents, and in all NRA capital works.*

Our aim for Navigation is to:

- *improve and maintain inland waters and their facilities for use by the public where the NRA is the navigation authority.*

We will achieve this by:

- *completing a review of navigation activities and their financing, and developing a strategy for future development.*

Our aim for Recreation is to:

- *develop the amenity and recreational potential of inland and coastal waters and associated lands.*

We will achieve this by:

- *making sure that recreational needs are included in all relevant catchment management plans.*

The map opposite shows some specific schemes that will help us to achieve these targets

Some Examples of Local Activities Which Will Give Real Environmental Benefit

Water Quality

- N&Y Restoration of Southern Yorkshire's industrial rivers.
- NW Develop and implement an emergency plan for road tanker accidents on the A66 in the River Derwent catchment.
- W Enforce River Dee Protection Zone.
- S-T Improve environmental quality of the River Stour by controlling the discharge of moth proofing agents and sheep dip chemicals from Kidderminster STW.
- A Remediation works associated with pollution of groundwater at Sawston.
- T Pollution prevention activities to reduce number of pollution incidents in West area of Thames region.
- S Vigorously pursue Patten initiative bathing water improvements.
- SW Continue to support development of long term treatment system at Wheal Jane tin mine to protect the water environment and achieve appropriate water quality standards.

Flood Defence

- N&Y Flood Defences on Humber estuary.
- NW River Irwell flood alleviation scheme.
- W Extend tidal warning system to cover all of Wales.
- S-T Improve flood warning system.
- A Happisburgh sea defences.
- T River Thames (Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton) flood alleviation scheme.
- S Dymchurch sea defences.
- SW Bideford urban sea defences.

Water Resources

- N&Y Development of strategy to manage pumping in the abandoned Durham coalfield.
- NW New Manchester Ship Canal gauging station to support Mersey Basin campaign.
- W Afon Ritec groundwater monitoring scheme.
- S-T Develop control rules for River Trent and improve flow measurement at tidal boundary.
- A River Slea low flow alleviation.
- T Review rising groundwater levels in London.
- S River Darent low flow alleviation.
- SW Malmesbury Avon and tributaries river management.

Fisheries, Recreation Conservation and Navigation

- N&Y Conservation and Recreation improvements at Bowes Field.
- NW Determine impact of cormorants on River Ribble fish stocks.
- W Improve and develop Canolfen Tryweryn in preparation for 1995 canoe slalom World Championships.
- S-T Install salmon, shad and elver passes at Tewkesbury.
- A Enhance degraded instream habitat in River Cam catchment.
- T Implement updated Navigation byelaws and boat safety checks.
- S Prepare salmon management plan for Rivers Test and Itchen.
- SW Enhance aquatic environments.

